

THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Amended) Apparatus for keeping food warm and moist comprising:

a pouch including a layer formed of a film of plastic material to provide water impermeability, the pouch being constructed to define an insulated and substantially water impermeable food warming chamber;

the pouch having opposing substantially coextensive lips defining a food passage into the food warming chamber;

the lips being formed to provide a passive, non-sealing engagement between the lips;

the passive, non-sealing engagement between the lips causing a partial enclosure of the warming chamber; and

the partial enclosure caused by the passive, non-sealing engagement between the lips and the food warming chamber being constructed to inhibit a build-up of moisture vapor produced from warm food disposed in the warming chamber for preventing warm food disposed in the warming chamber from becoming soggy and to allow enough moisture

vapor to remain in the warming chamber for keeping warm food disposed in the warming chamber moist.

2. (Original) Apparatus of claim 1, wherein the warming chamber is insulated with insulating structure.

3. (Previously Amended) Apparatus of claim 2, wherein the insulating structure comprises a pouch formed of engaged superimposed layers of cloth and insulating material.

4. (Original) Apparatus of claim 2, wherein the insulating structure comprises opposing and partially joined insulators each comprising engaged superimposed layers of cloth and insulating material.

5. (Original) Apparatus of claim 1, further including a closure for actively and partially coupling together the lips.

6. (Original) Apparatus of claim 5, wherein the closure comprises an engagement element supported by one of the lips and an opposing and detachably engagable complementary engagement element supported by the other of the lips.

7. (Original) Apparatus of claim 6, wherein the engagement element comprises one of a hook medium and a loop medium and the complementary engagement element comprises the other of the hook medium and the loop medium.

8. (Previously Amended) Apparatus for keeping food warm and moist comprising:

insulating structure supporting and substantially engulfing a substantially water impermeable plastic film pouch defining a food warming chamber for accommodating food;

the pouch and the insulating structure together providing generally opposing and substantially coextensive lips defining a food passage into the food warming chamber;

the lips being formed to produce a passive, non-sealing engagement between the lips;

the passive, non-sealing engagement between the lips causing a partial enclosure of the warming chamber; and

the partial enclosure caused by the passive, non-sealing engagement between the lips and the food warming chamber being constructed to provide a partial vapor lock in the food warming chamber inhibiting moisture vapor produced from warm food disposed in the warming chamber from building up in the warming chamber, which prevents warm food disposed in the warming chamber from becoming soggy and allows enough

moisture vapor to remain in the warming chamber for keeping warm food disposed in the warming chamber moist.

9. (Previously Amended) Apparatus of claim 8, wherein the insulating structure comprises a pouch formed of engaged superimposed layers of cloth and insulating material.

10. (Original) Apparatus of claim 8, wherein the insulating structure comprises opposing and partially joined insulators each comprising engaged superimposed layers of cloth and insulating material.

11. (Original) Apparatus of claim 8, further including a closure for actively and partially coupling together the lips.

12. (Original) Apparatus of claim 11, wherein the closure comprises an engagement element supported by one of the lips and an opposing and detachably engagable complementary engagement element supported by the other of the lips.

13. (Original) Apparatus of claim 12, wherein the engagement element comprises one of a hook medium and a loop medium and the complementary engagement element comprises the other of the hook medium and the loop medium.

14. (Previously Amended) Apparatus for storing and keeping food warm and moist comprising:

a soft and flexible insulated pouch having a substantially water impermeable warming chamber and lips;

a non-sealing engagement between the lips causing a partial enclosure of the warming chamber;

the partial enclosure caused by the non-sealing engagement between the lips inhibiting moisture vapor produced from warm food disposed in the warming chamber from building up in the warming chamber, which prevents warm food disposed in the warming chamber from becoming soggy and allows enough moisture vapor to remain in the warming chamber for keeping warm food disposed in the warming chamber moist.

15. (Original) Apparatus of claim 14, wherein the warming chamber is insulated with insulating structure.

16. (Previously Amended) Apparatus of claim 15, wherein the insulating structure comprises a pouch formed of engaged superimposed layers of cloth and insulating material.

17. (Original) Apparatus of claim 15, wherein the insulating structure comprises opposing and partially joined insulators each comprising engaged superimposed layers of cloth and insulating material.

18. (Original) Apparatus of claim 14, further including a closure for actively and partially coupling the passive opening.

19. (Original) Apparatus of claim 14, wherein the closure comprises an engagement element and a detachably engagable complemental engagement element.

20. (Original) Apparatus of claim 19, wherein the engagement element comprises one of a hook medium and a loop medium and the complemental engagement element comprises the other of the hook medium and the loop medium.